

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF NASSAU

-----X
MATTHEW METZ,

Plaintiff,

-against-

ST. HUGH OF LINCOLN ROMAN CATHOLIC
CHURCH, ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
ROCKVILLE CENTRE, JOHN DOE and JANE DOE,
RICHARD ROE and JANE ROE, priests, clergy and
administrators whose names are unknown to the Plaintiff,

Defendants.
-----X

Index No.
Date Filed:

Plaintiff designates
NASSAU
County as the place of trial.

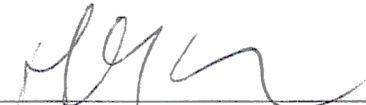
The basis of the venue is
Defendants' place of
business.

SUMMONS

To the above named Defendant(s)

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the complaint in this action and to
serve a copy of your answer, or, if the complaint is not served with this summons, to serve a
notice of appearance, on the Plaintiff's Attorney within 20 days after the service of this
summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within 30 days after the service is complete if this
summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York); and in case of your
failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief
demanded in the complaint.

Dated: New York, New York
August 14, 2019



MICHAEL G. DOWD
Attorney for Plaintiff
600 Third Avenue, 15th Floor
New York, NY 10016
(212) 751-1640

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF NASSAU

-----X
MATTHEW METZ,

Plaintiff,

Index No.
Date Filed:

-against-

ST. HUGH OF LINCOLN ROMAN CATHOLIC
CHURCH, ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
ROCKVILLE CENTRE, JOHN DOE and JANE DOE,
RICHARD ROE and JANE ROE, priests, clergy and
administrators whose names are unknown to the Plaintiff,

VERIFIED COMPLAINT

Defendants.
-----X

Plaintiff, MATTHEW METZ, by his attorney, MICHAEL G. DOWD, complaining of
Defendants, hereby alleges the following:

AS AND FOR A FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

(NEGLIGENT SUPERVISION)

1. The Plaintiff, MATTHEW METZ (hereinafter "Plaintiff") was born on January 4, 1965. He is a resident of Huntington Station, New York.
2. Plaintiff is a Roman Catholic and was a parishioner at Defendant ST. HUGH OF LINCOLN ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH (hereinafter "ST. HUGH"), which is a parish within the Defendant DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE. ST. HUGH is located in Huntington Station, New York, which is in Suffolk County.
3. Plaintiff was baptized, confirmed, attended mass, and received his sacraments through the Roman Catholic Church.
4. Upon information and belief, at all times mentioned herein, the DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE (hereinafter "DIOCESE") was and is a not-for-profit

religious corporation organized and existing around and under by virtue of the laws of the State of New York. Its principal headquarters are located in Rockville Centre, New York, which is in Nassau County.

5. Upon information and belief, JOHN BARRES (hereinafter "BARRES") is currently the Roman Catholic Bishop of the DIOCESE.
6. Upon information and belief, the Bishop is the Chief Executive Officer of all parishes and parish schools in the DIOCESE and as part of said responsibilities assigned the priests to work in the parishes.
7. Upon information and belief, all of BARRES' predecessor(s) were the Chief Executive Officers of all parishes and parish schools in the DIOCESE and as part of said responsibilities assigned the priests to work in the parishes, including ALFRED SOAVE (hereinafter "SOAVE"). This includes those Bishops who assigned SOAVE to his parish positions.
8. Upon information and belief, at all times mentioned herein, BARRES and the above-referenced predecessor Bishops in the Office of the Bishop along with Defendant DIOCESE created the policies and procedures to be followed by priests within the DIOCESE. The Office of the Bishop and Defendant DIOCESE were responsible for investigating complaints against its parish clergy. In this capacity, the Office of the Bishop either directly or through Diocesan officials appointed by them, established policies and procedures by which complaints of sexual abuse against parish clergy, priests, and staff were to be dealt with and investigated by the DIOCESE.

9. Upon information and belief, at all times mentioned herein, the Office of the Bishop was also responsible for removing and/or suspending parish clergy and priests from their duties.
10. Upon information and belief, at all times mentioned herein, SOAVE was a pastor at Defendant ST. HUGH having been assigned and otherwise authorized to work there by the Office of the Bishop.
11. Upon information and belief, Defendant ST. HUGH is a Roman Catholic Church within the DIOCESE in the County of Suffolk.
12. Sometime after Plaintiff became a member of the parish, SOAVE began a pattern of grooming Plaintiff for the purpose of sexually abusing him. This grooming included, but was not limited to, giving Plaintiff special attention.
13. Plaintiff met SOAVE when he became an alter server when he attended ST. HUGH's parochial school.
14. SOAVE's abuse of Plaintiff began in approximately 1973 and continued through 1979. The abuse included, but was not limited to SOAVE grabbing and fondling Plaintiff's genitals and buttocks over Plaintiff's clothes and also SOAVE placing his hands inside of Plaintiff's pants to grab and fondle his genitals. The abuse occurred in various locations throughout the ST. HUGH parish, including the sacristy, the school hallways, the bathroom, and also on school field trips to Rye Playland. Plaintiff estimates the abuse occurred on at least 600 occasions.
15. Upon information and belief, at all times mentioned herein, Defendant DIOCESE knew or should have known that children such as Plaintiff were present in rectories and sacristies for a variety of purposes, including counseling and work.

16. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff was taught and otherwise informed by Defendants DIOCESE and ST. HUGH by word and deed that he should obey, trust, and respect the DIOCESE and SOAVE.
17. Upon information and belief, since at least 1950 through present, Defendants DIOCESE and ST. HUGH knew the risk of sexual abuse of minor parishioners by priests and other staff working in the DIOCESE.
18. Upon information and belief, at all times mentioned herein, Defendants DIOCESE and ST. HUGH knew that minors sexually abused in the Catholic Church would suffer psychological and emotional injuries, as well as other damages.
19. Upon information and belief, at all times mentioned herein, Defendant DIOCESE aided and abetted the concealment of criminal conduct by failing and refusing to report allegations of child sexual abuse to appropriate New York civil authorities.
20. Upon information and belief, at the time of the acts alleged herein, SOAVE was an employee of, and acting as an agent of Defendants DIOCESE and ST. HUGH.
21. Upon information and belief, Defendants DIOCESE and ST. HUGH had a duty to protect Plaintiff as a minor parishioner from SOAVE's criminal sexual acts.
22. Upon information and belief, Defendants DIOCESE and ST. HUGH failed to adequately and completely supervise SOAVE, and as a result of this failure and negligence, proximately caused Plaintiff to be sexually abused by SOAVE.
23. The aforementioned occurrences of sexual abuse were caused by the negligence, carelessness, recklessness, and the willful, wanton, reckless and grossly negligent conduct of Defendants DIOCESE and ST. HUGH and their agents, servants,

and/or employees, in failing to properly and adequately supervise the conduct of SOAVE as it related to Plaintiff.

24. By reason of the foregoing, Plaintiff sustained physical and psychological injuries, including but not limited to, severe emotional distress, confusion, humiliation, fright, anxiety, a severe shock to his nervous system, and has been caused to suffer physical pain and mental anguish, emotional and psychological damages as a result thereof, and, upon information and belief, some or all of these injuries are of a permanent and lasting nature; and that Plaintiff as a result has become and will continue to be obligated to expend sums of money for medical expenses for treatment of said maladies.
25. That by reason of the foregoing, Defendants DIOCESE and ST. HUGH are also liable to Plaintiff for punitive and exemplary damages.
26. It is hereby alleged pursuant to CPLR 1603 that the foregoing cause of action is exempt from the operation of CPLR 1601 by reason of one or more of the exemptions provided in CPLR 1602, including but not limited to, CPLR 1602(7) and 1602(11).
27. That the amount of damages sought exceeds the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts, which would otherwise have jurisdiction.

AS AND FOR A SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

(NEGLIGENT FAILURE TO WARN)

28. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates, and realleges each and every allegation contained in the above paragraphs of this Complaint, with the same force and effect as if fully set forth at length herein.

29. Upon information and belief, prior to and at all times herein mentioned, Defendants DIOCESE and ST. HUGH and their agents, servants, and employees, knew or should have known that SOAVE violated DIOCESE and ST. HUGH's relevant rules, regulations and protocols prohibiting priests like SOAVE from sexually abusing and otherwise harming minor parishioners, including Plaintiff.
30. The Defendants DIOCESE and ST. HUGH and their agents, servants, and employees were negligent, careless and reckless and acted willfully, wantonly and were grossly negligent in failing to warn Plaintiff that the failure of SOAVE to abide by DIOCESE and ST. HUGH's rules, regulations and protocols regarding prohibitions on employees being alone with minor parishioners put Plaintiff at risk for being sexually abused by SOAVE.
31. By reason of the foregoing, Plaintiff sustained physical and psychological injuries, including but not limited to, severe emotional distress, confusion, humiliation, fright, anxiety, a severe shock to his nervous system, and has been caused to suffer physical pain and mental anguish, emotional and psychological damages as a result thereof, and, upon information and belief, some or all of these injuries are of a permanent and lasting nature; and that Plaintiff as a result has become and will continue to be obligated to expend sums of money for medical expenses for treatment of said maladies.
32. That by reason of the foregoing, Defendants DIOCESE and ST. HUGH are also liable to Plaintiff for punitive and exemplary damages.
33. It is hereby alleged pursuant to CPLR 1603 that the foregoing cause of action is exempt from the operation of CPLR 1601 by reason of one or more of the

exemptions provided in CPLR 1602, including but not limited to, CPLR 1602(7) and 1602(11).

34. That the amount of damages sought exceeds the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts, which would otherwise have jurisdiction.

AS AND FOR A THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

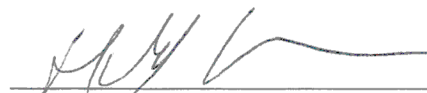
(NEGLIGENT FAILURE TO PROVIDE A SAFE AND SECURE ENVIRONMENT)

35. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates, and realleges each and every allegation contained in the above paragraphs of this Complaint, with the same force and effect as if fully set forth at length herein.
36. The Defendants DIOCESE and ST. HUGH assumed a duty to protect the safety and welfare of Plaintiff as more fully set forth above, when Plaintiff participated as a parishioner in ST. HUGH related activities such as attending the parish school, confession, and counseling. This duty imposed upon said Defendants, the duty to provide a reasonably safe and secure environment for Plaintiff while he was participating in parish programs.
37. When Plaintiff was in said Defendants' care, said Defendants failed to exercise the degree of care that a reasonably prudent parent would have exercised under similar circumstances.
38. Defendants DIOCESE and ST. HUGH and their agents and employees were negligent, careless and reckless and acted willfully, wantonly and were grossly negligent in failing to provide a safe and secure environment for Plaintiff while he participated as a minor in parish programs and as such was sexually abused by SOAVE.

39. By reason of the foregoing, Plaintiff sustained physical and psychological injuries, including but not limited to, severe emotional distress, confusion, humiliation, fright, anxiety, a severe shock to his nervous system, and has been caused to suffer physical pain and mental anguish, emotional and psychological damages as a result thereof, and, upon information and belief, some or all of these injuries are of a permanent and lasting nature; and that Plaintiff as a result has become and will continue to be obligated to expend sums of money for medical expenses for treatment of said maladies.
40. That by reason of the foregoing, Defendants DIOCESE and ST. HUGH are also liable to Plaintiff for punitive and exemplary damages.
41. It is hereby alleged pursuant to CPLR 1603 that the foregoing cause of action is exempt from the operation of CPLR 1601 by reason of one or more of the exemptions provided in CPLR 1602, including but not limited to, CPLR 1602(7) and 1602(11).
42. That the amount of damages sought exceeds the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts, which would otherwise have jurisdiction.

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff demands judgment against the Defendants, together with compensatory and punitive damages, and the interest, costs and disbursements pursuant to the causes of action herein.

Dated: New York, New York
August 14, 2019



MICHAEL G. DOWD
Attorney for Plaintiff
600 Third Avenue, 15th Floor
New York, NY 10016
(212) 751-1640


VERIFICATION BY ATTORNEY

MICHAEL G. DOWD, an attorney being duly admitted before the courts of the State of New York, hereby affirms the following under penalties of perjury:

That he is an attorney for the Plaintiff in the above-entitled action with offices located at 600 Third Ave, New York, New York; that he has read the foregoing VERIFIED COMPLAINT and knows the contents thereof; that the same is true to his knowledge, except as to the matters stated to be alleged upon information and belief, and that as to those matters he believes them to be true.

That the reason why this verification is made by deponent instead of Plaintiff is because Plaintiff is not within the County of New York where deponent has his office. Deponent further says that the grounds of his belief as to all matters in the VERIFIED COMPLAINT not stated to be upon his knowledge are based upon conversations with the Plaintiff and other writings relevant to this action.

Dated: New York, New York
August 14, 2019



MICHAEL G. DOWD
Attorney for Plaintiff
600 Third Avenue, 15th Floor
New York, NY 10016
(212) 751-1640